

Art Unit: 2800

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CLAIMS 1-13 CANCELED

14. A channel for an integrated circuit tester, the channel comprising:

an input/output (I/O) port;

a first transistor for turning on and off in response to a first control signal supplied thereto, said first transistor having a first terminal linked to said I/O port, and having a second terminal, said first transistor conductively linking said first and second terminals through low impedance when turned on and isolating said first and second terminals through high impedance when turned off;

a second transistor for turning on and off in response to a second control signal supplied thereto, having a third terminal linked to said I/O port, and having a fourth terminal, said second transistor conductively linking said third and fourth terminals through low impedance when turned on and isolating said third and fourth terminals through high impedance when turned off;

reference signal generation means for selectively supplying one of a first reference voltage and a constant current to said fourth terminal selected in response to a third control signal supplied thereto;

a source of second reference voltage;

comparator means linked to said I/O port for producing an indicating signal indicating whether a voltage at said I/O port exceeds an adjustable reference voltage supplied thereto; and

control means for supplying said first, second and third control signals and said adjustable reference voltage to said first and second transistors, said reference signal generation means and said comparator respectively.

15. The channel in accordance with claim 14 wherein said reference signal generation means comprises:

a first voltage source;

a current source; and

means for alternatively connecting either one of said first voltage source and said current source to said second terminal in response to said third control signal.

16. The channel in accordance with claim 14 wherein said means for applying said second reference voltage to said fourth terminal comprises:

a node at ground potential;

a source of said second reference voltage, and

switch means for selectively linking either of said source of second reference voltage and node to said fourth terminal in response to said third control signal.